

THE POST OFFICES OF MASON COUNTY

The eighth of the nine counties formed while Kentucky was still a part of Virginia, Mason was established by legislative act on November 5, 1788. Its original 5,710 square miles, then comprising one-fourth of Kentucky, were taken wholly from Bourbon County. It occupied all of Kentucky east of the entire stretch of the Licking River from its head in southern Magoffin County to the Ohio River. Mason's first loss of territory came in May 1795 when 370 square miles were contributed to the formation of Campbell County. By the time Mason assumed its present 241 square mile area in March 1890, all or part of nineteen other counties had been taken from its original territory.

The county was named for George Mason (1725-1792), an early advocate of American independence, who, in 1776, drafted Virginia's Declaration of Rights. Though later a member of the U.S. Constitutional Convention he refused to sign this document, opposing the centralization of power and the lack of an explicit bill of individual rights, and led the effort against its ratification by the Virginia legislature. His Virginia Declaration formed the basis of the Constitution's first ten amendments.

The northern half of Mason County is watered by the Ohio River, its seventeen mile long northern boundary, and several direct tributaries--Cabin, Bull Fork, Kennedy's, Limestone, Lawrence, Beasley's and Lee's Creeks. Its major interior stream is the North Fork of the Licking River, which heads in eastern Fleming County and joins the Licking in southwestern Bracken County. Like the Ohio's branches, the North Fork's key tributaries--Phillips, Indian Run, Stone Lick,

Strodes, Mill, Wells, Lee's, Clarks Run, Shannon, and Two Lick Creeks figured significantly in Mason's settlement history and as reference points in the location of most of its communities and post offices.

Maysville, the county seat, is a major Ohio river port and industrial town, sixty seven road miles northeast of downtown Lexington via US 68. The ~~1990~~ Census counted ~~16,666~~ Mason County residents.

This chapter will describe each of the thirty five post offices within Mason's present boundaries, locating them by road miles from the post office in downtown Maysville.

Maysville, a third class city with a ~~1990~~ population of some ~~8,600~~, centers at the mouth of Limestone Creek. A natural harbor at this site made it the ideal point of entry for Ohio River travelers to Kentucky's early interior settlements. On December 2, 1785 the Virginia legislature granted 800 acres here to John May (1744-1790), then one of its four Kentucky delegates and the first clerk of the Kentucky District's Supreme Court. The landing established here and the settlement that followed were first called Limestone for the creek. The creek was said, in a statement by Capt. John Hedges, to have been named by him in 1773 for the limestone rock ledges along the Ohio's banks.

On December 11, 1787 a town named for May was formally established by the Virginia legislature on one hundred acres of his land in the river bottom between the creek and the present Rosemary Clooney Street. Threats of Indian incursion, however, delayed settlement for the first few years in favor of the area around Kenton Station, some four miles up the Buffalo Trace, near which the county town of Washington had just been established.

There was something to the Maysville site, however, that justified the opening of a post office there on May 24, 1794, even before the establishment of Washington's. The office was called Limestone for the creek and landing, and George Mitchell was named its first postmaster. It closed before the end of the following year and was not re-established until March 22, 1799, this time as Maysville, and again with Mitchell as postmaster. The Limestone name was actually continued in use for the town for many years; by the mid 1820s the town was still being called by both names.

Due to its strategic location on the Ohio and its development as a major river port, Limestone-Maysville soon began to come into its own. By 1848 it had outgrown Washington sufficiently to attract the county seat.

Over the years Maysville expanded, first annexing areas east of the creek and then land up the hill along the Trace. Rapid growth after the Second World War narrowed the area between Maysville and Washington, creating a single buildup entity, and culminating in the merger of the two towns in the summer of 1990 to form a single third class city retaining the Maysville name.

Maysville continues as the trade and cultural center of the five county Buffalo Trace area. Its eighteen tobacco warehouses make it the second (to Lexington) largest burley market in the U.S. The town's main industrial employers are the Browning Division of Emerson Electric, TechnoTrim, a maker of auto seat trims, and Jockey International.

Until its merger with Maysville, Washington was a fifth class city with a 1990 population of nearly 800. It extended for over

a mile along US 68, its main street, and was centered at the junction of that road and US 62, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles northwest of the Maysville post office.

As a settled place Washington may have been slightly older than Maysville beginning life as a way station for the earliest travelers between the river and Kentucky's interior. The site was laid out as a town in 1786 on 700 acres acquired the year before from Simon Kenton by ~~William~~ Wood, a Baptist minister from New York State, and Arthur Fox, Sr., a Virginia-born surveyor, who had recently moved here from the Lexington area. According to tradition, it may have been called Fox's Station when, on August 22, 1786, its then fifty local families established it as a town ^{and} ^{it} named ^{for} General George Washington.¹

In May 1789 Washington was chosen as the seat of the new Mason County and within a year had become Kentucky's second largest town with 460 residents. (Only Lexington was larger.) Its post office, the county's second by only $2\frac{1}{2}$ weeks, was established on June 11, 1794 as Washington Court House.² The first postmaster was Thomas Sloe, an early town trustee, who later became a Justice of the Peace and a Mason County sheriff.³

By 1800 Washington had become the commercial, cultural, and political center of northeastern Kentucky. Travelers to the Bluegrass continued to find attractive accommodations at its several inns, and area consumers patronized at least twenty local stores. But its growth was halted and its early hopes as a great trans-Appalachian metropolis were shattered by a devastating fire in 1825, a cholera epidemic in the early 1830s, and, most damaging, its loss

of the county seat to the faster growing and more strategically located Maysville. Thenceforth it drifted into comparative insignificance, coming to its own only after the Second World War as a tourist attraction.

Shortly after John May acquired the site of the future downtown Maysville, his brother William secured title to some land twelve miles up the Buffalo Trace near a salt spring or lick. This came to be known as William May's Spring, and later, May's Lick. In July 1788 the Drake, Morris, and Shotwell families who had recently arrived in Limestone from Plainfield, New Jersey, took possession of 1,400 acres of May's land then held by Judge Harry Innes and laid out the town of Mays Lick. By the following year Abraham Drake's store and tavern had become a popular stopping place for travelers on the trace. The Mays Lick post office may have been established on (or about) July 1, 1800 with James Morris, its first postmaster. The town was incorporated in February 1837. The community, no longer incorporated, still has its post office and several stores just west of the junction of US 68 and Ky 324, 11 3/4 miles ssw of Maysville.⁴

The small village of Orangeburg is on the Stone Lick Branch of the North Fork (of the Licking River) and at the junction of Ky 1234 and 1449, seven miles southeast of Maysville. The site was part of Francis McDermid's 1,400 acre tracts, surveyed for him in March 1784, that he conveyed to his daughter Catherine (Mrs. Charles) Williams. Harry Parker and Charles' son John formally laid out the town in 1796, calling it Williamsburg. A post office of this name was established in 1813 with Elijah Thornsberry, postmaster. On February 29, 1836 a legislative act authorized a name change for

the community to Orangeburg to honor a local tailor and leading citizen, Providence Orange Pickering. However, the post office did not assume that name till January 1850 and as such it operated through November 1906.

The crossroads village of Minerva has also been traced back to the 1790s. Centering at the junction of Ky 435 and 1235, 11½ miles wnw of Mayville, it is said to have been named for an early resident, Minerva Green. For most of the nineteenth century the local post office, established on July 10, 1812, with James M. Runyon, postmaster, served a fairly prosperous town with a tannery, flour mill, tavern, tobacco house, and several general stores. Several churches, a school, a large store, a restaurant, and the post office still serve that section of Mason and northeast Bracken County between Germantown and the river.

The sixth class city of Dover lies mostly in the Ohio bottom, just below the mouth of Lee's Creek and north of Ky 8, 10 3/4 miles northwest of Maysville. It is on the 2,700 acre tract acquired in 1784 by Arthur Fox, Sr., the Virginia-born surveyor, who was to help lay out the city of Washington two years later. Jeremiah Washburn's blockhouse in 1786 (some say earlier) was the first of a number of homes built in this vicinity before 1818 when Fox's son, Arthur Jr., laid out the town which he named for his family's old home in England.

The Dover post office was established in January 1823, possibly with James Coleman as its first postmaster. The town was chartered in February 1836. By the 1870s Dover had become an important mill town and one of the major tobacco and livestock shipping ports on

that stretch of the river. A station on the Maysville and Big Sandy (later the C&O) Railroad was located here soon after the line's completion in 1888. The town barely survived a 1968 tornado, and its present population of 300 is less than half its late nineteenth century peak.

In 1789 George Lewis (1763-1803) re-settled the abandoned George Clark Station that has been built two years before on the North Fork of the Licking River. On seventy acres of what was then called Lewis Station, the Kentucky legislature in December 1795 established the town of Lewisburg.⁵ Since this name was already in use in Muhlenberg County, the local post office was opened by Samuel Dobyns on April 11, 1828 as North Fork by which it was identified exclusively till it closed in 1932. A station on the newly completed Maysville and Lexington (later the Kentucky Central and Louisville and Nashville) Railroad was located about one-third of a mile south of Lewisburg in 1873 and was called Marshall's for Alexander K. Marshall who donated the site. Lewisburg is still a viable community just west of the new Ky 11, and seven miles south of Maysville.

Dickey Tanyard was the name applied to a post office established on February 1, 1830 with Cornelius Drake, postmaster. Nothing about it is known, not its location nor even the date of its closing. An Allen C. Dickey is listed in the 1830 Census for neighboring Fleming County, but no one of that family name is found in Mason County in that or subsequent years. Drake may have been a descendant of one of the original Mayslick settlers.

The pioneer Hugh Sanders, best known as one of the men who named Lexington in 1775, is said to have settled the following year on

Lees Creek in the future Mason County. His name was soon given to one of the North Fork's tributaries and, in 1797, to one of the county's first Methodist churches. In the vicinity of the church, or possibly on Shannon Creek, just west of the future Needmore post office, the first of the two Shannon post offices was established on November 29, 1830 with William J. Lawson. postmaster. (On the 1839 Burr map, this office is shown on the main road between Maysville and Cynthiana [now US 62], five miles southwest of Murphysville.)

In December 1846 postmaster John M. Reed moved the office three miles west to the newly founded community of Sardis on the then Nicholas (later Robertson) County line. Laid out by Luke Dye, Sardis, chartered by the legislature on February 14, 1850, was presumably named for the ancient capital of Lydia (in what is now western Turkey), one of the seven Christian cities mentioned in the Book of Revelations. Sardis ceased as an independent post office in 1959, but as a rural branch of Maysville it continues to serve this small sixth class city, sixteen miles southwest of the county seat.

On July 28, 1873 the Shannon name was given to another post office established by James M. Clark, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles northeast of Sardis (probably at the church), where it served at least two general stores, a hotel, and eight tobacco houses till it closed in late October 1907. The current hamlet of Shannon is at the junction of US 62 and Ky 596, three fourths of a mile northeast of the church.

At the junction of the present US 62 and Ky 324, near what may have been the site of the original Shannon post office, was another office called Needmore. Actually this office was established on February 4, 1896 in the small community of Manley at the junction

of Ky 324 and Weavers Road, three miles west of Mayslick. Manley as the preferred name for the office gave way to Bramel [braem/²l] for its first postmaster Charles Bramel. In February 1899, when Luke Dye (probably a descendant of the Sardis founder) became postmaster, he had the office's name changed to Needmore and moved it 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles north to the junction of 62 and 324 where it served his store till it closed in October 1907.

The old mill town of Murphysville, where US 62 crosses the North Fork, nine miles southwest of Maysville, may be traced back to the early 1820s. Then, according to tradition, a Mr. Murphy dammed the river there to build a woolen (later flour) mill that was the focus of the village's economy. Or else it was named for William Murphy, an early nineteenth century Washington-based land dealer. Its post office, with Joseph Howe, the first postmaster, operated between November 13, 1830 and mid February 1906.

Mill Creek, which joins the North Fork a mile below (west of) Lewisburg, gave its name to two post offices. The first, in the vicinity of the later Mill Creek Christian Church, operated between 1830 and late October 1835. Edmund P. Mathews may have been its first postmaster.

The second Mill Creek post office was established on July 17, 1886 with Frank Sylvester Collins, postmaster, to serve the new L&N railroad station midway between Helena Station and Marshall, one quarter of a mile south of the creek (and 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Maysville). Mr. Collins' first name preference was Hickey, probably for Fr. John Hickey (1819-1902), an Irish-born Catholic priest living nearby, who served congregations in several counties. In January

1901 the office--by then it was Millcreek--was moved half a mile up the creek to a site just west of the present Ky 11 where it closed in late May 1907.

The creek itself is said to have been settled before 1780 and may have been named for Bartholomew Fitzgerald's mill built before 1796. Some say this was what was labeled "old mill" on one of Lake's 1876 maps, about a mile below (north of) the Mill Creek station.

The Mill Creek post offices have often been confused with the Millwood post office as well as the community that later took this name and was served by the post office of Wedonia. The post office that became Millwood was established on September 27, 1837 at or near Helena and was first called Helena [hə/leen/ə] for reasons as yet unlearned. Claiborne F. Wood was its first postmaster. The town of Helena which grew up around it was incorporated in March 1854. When John Cook became postmaster in 1856 this office may have moved about a mile east to what is now known as Wedonia, and two years later, when Boone W. Clark became postmaster, it took the name Millwood. It closed in November 1861.

Two months after the Millwood name replaced Helena another Helena post office was established at its original location with Samuel T. Womack, postmaster. This served the Helena we know today, on Ky 324, one mile west of Wedonia, and 11 3/4 miles south of Maysville, till September 1924.

With the completion of the Maysville and Lexington Railroad a station was built where the present Ky 324 crosses the tracks, one mile west of Helena, and was called Helena Station. This had its

own post office from June 4, 1878, when Oscar L. King, the local storekeeper, railroad and express agent, became postmaster, till 1937.

Until the Wedonia [wee/dohn/yə] post office was established on May 19, 1892, with the local grocer Robert B. Cord as postmaster, the community one mile east of Helena (centering at the junction of the present Ky 11 and 324) continued to be called Millwood. The new post office and the community that continues to bear this name were probably named for Octavius M. Weedon, an earlier resident and storekeeper, who also operated a stage line between Maysville and Mt. Sterling. The Wedonia post office closed on September 15, 1924, the very day the Helena post office closed, with papers from both sent to Helena Station, two miles west.

Mount Gilead was at the junction of the present Rts. 597 and 1234, on the Fleming County line, 11½ miles sse of Maysville. This settlement grew up around the Mount Gilead Church that was organized in 1819 as the Baptist Church of Jesus Christ on the Waters of Indian Creek. The area was settled by the four Virginia-born Wallingford brothers (Nicholas, Joseph, Richard, and Mark), Bible-readers who are said to have been reminded of the rugged but scenic mountainous region of Mount Gilead east of the Jordan River. The local post office, established by Joseph Wallingford on July 11, 1837, operated intermittently through August 1906. The church and several stores are gone.

Two shortlived antebellum post offices--Hamer and Ebersole's Warehouse--have not been located and are virtually unknown to current Mason Countians. Hamer was operated between December 28, 1848 and

late July 1851 by Jerry Cracraft and James W. Gault. It may have been named for John Hamer, the only such named person recorded in Mason County in the 1850 Census. Old land deeds report a James Hamer living or owning land in the county before 1810.

Homer Ebersole was the only postmaster of Ebersole's Warehouse that operated between March 12, 1852 and late March 1855.

From August 5, 1850 till early May 1884 Thomas Griffith and others maintained the Slack post office at the junction of the present Ky 435 (old Ky 10) and Big Pond Road, $7\frac{1}{4}$ miles west of Maysville. This was undoubtedly named for the family of politically prominent Col. Jacob A. Slack (1795-1857) who represented the county in the Kentucky legislature in the early 1820s.

The hamlet of Fern Leaf at the junction of the present Ky 10 and 435, eleven miles west of Maysville, may have been named for the area's thick growth of wild ferns in early settlement times. Its post office, established by William Howell on July 20, 1854, operated through October 1907.

The descendants of pioneer George Farrow had a mill on the Licking's North Fork, in the southeast corner of the county, about equally distant from Mount Gilead, Orangeburg, and Tollesboro. Here the post office of Farrows Mill [faer/əz] operated from April 21, 1865 through 1867 with Thomas McCan and Benjamin F. Farrow, the first of its three postmasters. An 1876 Orangeburg Precinct map shows an "old mill" at this site on or near land owned by M.D. Farrow who may have been the Mathias Farrow listed in the 1860 Census.

A local spring probably gave its name to the Springdale post office established on July 20, 1865 with Charles W. Tudor, postmaster.

The small settlement it served just below the mouth of Cabin Creek may first have been called Deadfall,⁴⁴ referring to a large animal trap in which a heavy weight is made to fall on and crush its victims. By the mid 1870s the Springdale name had also been applied to the community and the station on the Kentucky and Great Eastern Line that was to become a part of the Maysville and Big Sandy (later C&O) Railroad. The community was then also known as the Mouth of Cabin Creek or, simply, Cabin Creek.⁴⁵

In late June 1883 George Daniel Jenkins succeeded in moving the Springdale post office a mile south to his store where, as Jenkins, he operated it for a month before his predecessor, William J. Tully, had it returned to its original Ohio River site, 5½ miles east of Maysville. By the time it closed in 1964 little remained of the Springdale community. The land was being bought up by the Dravo Lime Company of Pittsburgh for its new underground limestone mines which began their operation in the winter of 1977.⁴⁶

Extending for about a mile along Ky 10, half a mile from the Lewis County line and 8½ miles southeast of Maysville, is the viable village of Rectorville. The local post office serving several mills, stores, and a hotel from July 20, 1873 through February 1915 was named for either Rector Marshall, said to have been a descendant of Col. Thomas Marshall of Washington, or the Glascock cousins, Albert Rector and William Rector.⁴⁷ Henry V. Riggen was its first postmaster.

One Mason County post office served an Ohio River town that is now within Maysville's eastern city limits. The town of Chester, with its brickyards and lime factory, was mentioned in Collins' (1874) history as a Maysville suburb⁴⁸ and was chartered by the legislature

on January 17, 1878. Its site, a mile above the mouth of Limestone Creek, was part of Judge Coburn's proposed late eighteenth century town of Madison (or Liberty) that failed to materialize until after the Civil War. The Chester post office was established on February 5, 1880 with Lewis Napoleon Holiday, a railroad agent, storekeeper, and the town's mayor, as its first postmaster. According to Holiday's Site Location Report his office would serve some 1,200 residents and be two miles east of the Maysville post office and one-eighth of a mile south of the river. The town was annexed by Maysville in 1891 and its post office closed the following April. Its name origin remains unknown.

Tuckahoe [tuhk/ə/hoh] has been the name applied to the ridge lying between Lee's and Beasley's Creeks. This area was first settled by Virginians, probably from the James River valley just above Richmond, who, in late colonial times, were often called "Tuckahoe" by their western neighbors. The rural neighborhood that grew up on this ridge was centered on its store and post office that may have been at the junction of the present Ky 576 and Tuckahoe (formerly Tuckona) Road, $7\frac{1}{4}$ miles northwest of Maysville. The post office was established on April 13, 1880 by storekeeper William Lancaster Holton who may have been succeeded by another storekeeper Jim J. Haggerty before the office closed in March 1909.

Whence Tuckahoe is interesting. The name applied in the early 1700s to a tributary of the James River and to the manor house of the famed Randolph family, seven miles above Richmond, was derived from the Algonquian tochawhougha or Virginia truffle common to much of the Tidewater region of several states. This was a tuberous root

dug by the Indians from which they made their bread.⁸

The Peed post office served a store at a place called Oak Halls on the present US 68, 2 3/4 miles southwest of Mayslick. It was established on February 15, 1886 by William M. Ray and was probably named for A.M. Peed (ne 1813), a local landowner and farmer. The office closed in late June 1906.

The name of then U.S. Postmaster-General William Freeman Vilas (1840-1905) was offered for a post office just above the head of Bull Creek. On postmaster-designate Henry Mattingly's Site Location Report this name was crossed out and Plum Fork was written in instead. But, for some reason, the post office officially opened on May 21, 1886 as Plumbville and as such operated through January 1906. County historians don't know the derivation of this name but agree that it should have been Plumville, and indeed official maps now use this spelling to identify the growing suburban community on the present Ky 10, six miles southeast of Maysville. Could Plum Fork have been the name of a nearby stream?

The settlement of Lawrence Creek centered on an old stone Methodist church built in 1815 on the east bank of the stream named for its pioneer discoverer Lawrence Darnell. On June 24, 1886 storekeeper and postmaster-designate William Lewis Moran gave his name to the local post office Moranburgh (curiously pronounced mɔ/raenz/birgh]. This became simply Moranburg in 1892, and closed in mid November 1907 having served two mills and several stores at the junction of the present Ky 435 (old Ky 10), and 1579, four miles northwest of Maysville.

When the C&O Railroad was completed below Maysville in 1880s a station was established just across the Ohio River from Ripley and named South Ripley. (Actually it was more west of Ripley than it was south). Its post office, though, was established on July 3, 1889 as Howard for the family of its first postmaster Charles Howard, the son of the late James A., a noted trader and steamboat captain. In October 1905 postmaster David M. Conover had the office's name changed to Sharon, the name of a nearby river crossing in the 1840s. This office closed in 1934. On the following March 1st, it was re-established as South Ripley and operated till 1944. Little remains at this site where Ky 8 and 576 meet, nine miles northwest of Maysville.

For the record, Ripley, Ohio was laid out around 1812 by James Poage and was first called Staunton for the town in Virginia. It was later renamed for General Eleazar Wheelock Ripley, an officer in the War of 1812, and was noted for its pork packing plant and steamboat building yard.

Summit was the name proposed for the Kentucky Central Railroad's new post office at Summit Station, four rail miles south of Maysville. As this was already in use in Hardin County, the Mason County office was inexplicably called Bernard instead and operated between August 24, 1889 and mid May 1906. Charles Cole was its first postmaster. This site, where the tracks cross the present Taylor Mill Road (Rt. 3313), just south of the New Double A Highway, has been identified as Somo on recent published maps.

To serve the Two Lick community around a Baptist church of this name, $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles north of the Licking River's North Fork, local store-

keeper Squire Marcus Woodward established a post office he would name Tanglewood. Yet it operated, between April 18, 1891 and mid September 1909, as Tangletown with Woodward its only postmaster. The church had been named for an aptly named creek half a mile east, a branch of the North Fork that heads just south of Germantown on the Bracken County line. Tanglewood and Tangletown remain unexplained.

Postmaster-designate John Kennard gave his name to the post office established on July 29, 1891 to serve the small mill village of Lowell when he learned that the latter name was then in use in Garrard County. The Kennard office was located on the southeast side of the North Fork, across from the mouth of Pummel Creek, $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles wsw of Maysville. It closed in June 1904.

Surely an enigma is the designation on one of the maps in Griffing's Illustrated Atlas of Mason County (Lake, 1876) of the small community and post office of Bridgeport on the Lewis County line south of Rectorville. Such a place is not listed in any postal or other record. For most of the nineteenth century only Franklin County had a post office with this name.

FIVE

~~Six~~ of Mason's thirty five post offices (Maysville, ~~Washington~~, Dover, Mayslick, Minerva, and Sardis) are still in operation, the last as a community post office. The first ~~three~~² and Sardis serve currently incorporated communities. One old office--Chester--served a once independent town that is now a part of Maysville. Half of the offices were once the center of viable villages.

Thirteen offices were named for local or area people, while one was named for General George Washington. Two names were geographi-

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cally descriptive. Four distant places (two of Biblical significance) gave their names to Mason County offices, while to six offices were transferred the names of nearby features (four streams and two communities). Two offices were named for local industries. One name --Needmore--may have appealed to somebody's sense of humor. Five post office names (Helena, Chester, Plumbville, Bernard, and Tangle-town) have not been derived. Three places (Dickey Tanyard, Ebersole's Warehouse, and Hamer) have not yet been located.

The names of five offices were not those originally proposed for them. Six had names other than those of the communities they served. Six had name-changes.

FOOTNOTES

1. This is one of a series of essays on the post offices of specific Kentucky counties. Readers should not expect more from this article than is indicated by its title. It will present as briefly as necessary the geographical setting and development of Mason county, but most of the text will be devoted to the post offices themselves. I had three reasons for doing this and the other essays in this series. I wished to correct some errors of fact in my Kentucky Place Names (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1984); to expand on some of the entries in that book; and, of course, to include those offices that, for space reasons, had to be omitted from it. Unless otherwise indicated in the footnotes, my data was derived from unpublished postal records, historic and contemporary maps, and personal observations. Among the maps referred to was Griffing's 1876 Illustrated Atlas of Mason County, Kentucky (Philadelphia: Lake, Griffing, & Stevenson). For readers who may question the exclusion of Germantown in this essay, I can only say that it appears in a similar essay on the post offices of neighboring Bracken County where the office is still in operation.

2. Long, John A., editor, Atlas of Historical County Boundaries: Kentucky, compiled by Gordon DenBoer, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1994

3. Entry on George Mason in The New Columbia Encyclopedia, New York: Columbia University Press, 1975, Pp. 1713-14

4. Hall, C. Ray "Maysville" Louisville Courier-Journal Magazine, March 25, 1991, Pp.
5. Weis, Marybelle C. "The Pollit Record" in the (Maysville) Ledger-Independent BiCentennial Edition, July 2, 1976, P. 12:1-5
6. For more on John May, see Ben H. Coke, John May, Jr. of Virginia: His Descendants and Their Land, Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1975, passim.
7. Clift, G. Glenn, History of Maysville and Mason County, Kentucky, Lexington, 1936, Pp. 26, 120
8. Calvert, Jean of Maysville, interviewed by the writer on June 25, 1977. cf also Jean Calvert and John Klee, The Towns in Mason County--Their Past in Pictures, Maysville, 1986
9. Calvert, op. cit.
10. Ibid.
11. Calvert, Jean, entry on Maysville in The Kentucky Encyclopedia, Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1992, Pp. 621-22
12. A.P. news release, August 16, 1990. cf also Hall, op. cit.
13. Hall, op. cit.
14. Calvert, interview, op. cit. and Jean Calvert's entry on Washington in The Kentucky Encyclopedia, Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1992, P. 934
15. Calvert and Klee, op. cit., Pp. 8-10. Contrary to local wishful thinking, Washington, Ky. was not the first

American town named for the Continental Army commander and future president. That honor had been given to the seat of North Carolina's Beaufort County in 1776 by its founder, Col. James Bonner, a friend of the general. (cf William S. Powell, The North Carolina Gazetteer, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1968, P. 518)

16. Old Washington, Ky Historic Guide and Walking Tour, an unpagged brochure published by Old Washington, Inc., 1976,

17. Again, contrary to public opinion, neither Washington nor Limestone was Kentucky's first official post office.

Danville's post office was established on August 20, 1892.

However, it is possible that, as early as 1789, Washington was serving as an unofficial distribution point for mail to that section of the Ohio Valley.

18. The spelling of the name of the first Washington postmaster seems to be in question. Postal records have it as Sloe. Collins' history referred to Sloo since this is the spelling given in early county records. In either case the name was probably pronounced "sloh".

19. Old Washington, Kentucky... op. cit.

20. Ibid.

21. Drake, Daniel, Pioneer Life in Kentucky, 1785-1800, Emmet Field Horine's 1948 edition, New York: Henry Schuman, 1948, Ft. #12, P. 14. cf also to Coke, op.cit.

22. According to the Newsletter of the Mason County Genealogical Society, Vol.7 (11), 1989, the Mayslick settlement may also have been called The New Jersey Colony.

23. From Cabin to College: A History of the Schools of Mason County, Kentucky, Maysville, 1976, P. 29
24. Acts of the General Assembly, 1835, P. 381
25. From Cabin to College, op. cit.
26. Calvert and Klee, op. cit., Pp., 157-58
27. The Public, Dover, Ky., August 16, 1902. Reproduced in The Newsletter of the Mason County Genealogical Society, Vol. 9 (4), 1990/1, Pp. 70-77
28. Calvert, interview, op. cit.
29. Clift, op.cit. Pp. 61, 78
30. Fryman, Mrs. Virgil T. History of Lewisburg and Mill Creek, Mason County, Kentucky, manuscript of a paper read before the Washington Study Club. February 24, 1961
31. Ibid.
32. Brand, L. Alberta, Place Names of Mason County, DAR Manuscript, 1941, in the Library of the Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort
33. Ibid. P. 7
34. Calvert and Klee, op. cit. P. 107
35. Ibid., P. 107
36. DAR "Historical Sketch of Mason County, Kentucky," an undated leaflet
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38. Clift, op.cit., P. 205
39. Calvert and Klee, op.cit. P. 107
40. Ibid.
41. Ibid., P. 115

42. Brand, op.cit., Pp. 9-10
43. Calvert, interview, op.cit.
44. Calvert and Klee, op. cit., P. 147
45. Several miles up Cabin Creek, in Lewis County, was the Cabin Creek post office that, in 1886, became Cottageville.
46. Calvert, interview, op.cit.
47. Calvert and Klee, op.cit. P. 145
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4. According to the newsletter of the Mason County Genealogical Society, Vol. 7 (1), 1989, the Mayslick settlement may also have been called The New Jersey Colony.
5. According to the Acts of the Kentucky General Assembly, the town was to be called Lewisborough.
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